

ihb reporter

IHB - 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

When The IHB first hung out its shingle in 1893 at 96 Lexington Avenue in Brooklyn, the organization, according to the local news paper, was to "furnish a home and companionship for deserving blind men and to provide them with employment such as chair-caning, broom-making, mattress stuffing and repairing." Then as now, the Executive Director (Eben Porter Morford) was blind himself.

"Helping the Blind to Help Themselves"

Eighty years and twenty-eight services later, The IHB enjoys an international reputation for its pioneering services to blind and deaf-blind men, women and children in the four counties of Long Island.

Then as now, The IHB encouraged independence and self-sufficiency according to its motto, "Helping the Blind to Help Themselves." In its first Annual Report, published in 1894, when the "Brooklyn Industrial Home for Blind Men" was under the auspices of The Mizpah Circle, the Secretary wrote, "One of the objects of the institution is to teach a trade to adults who have become blind that they may earn their own living and thereby become *self-supporting*." (Editor's Italics).

In the same Annual Report, the Superintendent, Eben Porter Morford, wrote "The growth of the institution has ever since been of a steady, healthful nature and there has been nothing spasmodical in its advancement" - a growth which now encompasses 12 separate facilities in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk - including a Headquarters building at 57 Willoughby Street in downtown Brooklyn; a Rehabilitation Center in New Hyde Park; a Braille Textbook Library in West Hempstead; a residence for aged blind and deaf-blind persons in Cold Spring Harbor; and five day centers for the elderly scattered throughout the IHB service area.

IHB Milestones

It is near impossible to single out the most innovative service for blind persons developed by The IHB.

In 1917, IHB established services for the deaf-blind.

In 1920, the agency employed the first professionally trained social worker in work for the blind.

TOP—These early traveling salesmen from IHB passed the word that "Brooklyn has been made cleaner by Lightbuoy Products." MIDDLE—Left to right, Dr. Peter J. Salmon, Helen Keller, Polly Thompson. It was on the occasion of Miss Keller's 65th birthday that she formalized plans for IHB's Department for Deaf-Blind People. BOTTOM—IHB's 2nd home and later acquisitions at 512-514 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn.



"80 Years of Service" continued

In 1937, IHB established a Placement Service for Blind Persons.

In 1945, Peter J. Salmon became IHB Executive Director and stimulated the inception of a Department for Deaf-Blind Adults.

In 1946, IHB opened a Recreation and Day Center for blind senior citizens.

In 1947, IHB established the first comprehensive rehabilitation center for blind men and women.

In 1952, The IHB Nursery School opened and a Volunteer Transcribing Service was established.

In 1953, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service for blind people, the first of its kind, was started by IHB. In the same year, the IHB Braille Textbook Library was opened and the Headquarters Building at 57 Willoughby Street was acquired.

In 1962, IHB inaugurated the Anne Sullivan Macy Service for Deaf-Blind Persons, now the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults.

In 1965, John F. Brady took over the position of Executive Director.

In 1966, the IHB Community Aging Program, the inspiration for IHB's ongoing IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM for Professional and Para-Professional Staffs in Nursing Homes, was begun.

In 1968, the first Vocational Exploration Program for blind adolescents, was conducted as a joint venture by The IHB and the New York City Board of Education. In 1972, this program was one of two in the United States specially cited by the Office of Education, US Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1971, IHB received a \$2.5 million federal grant and 25 acres of surplus government property at Sands Point, Long Island for construction of the permanent headquarters for the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. In the same year, the Board of Education Rubella Program and the IHB Nursery School Program consolidated into The IHB Children's Centre with Social Service Staff and adjacent Low Vision Clinic, in Downtown Brooklyn.

In 1972, IHB's first Home Management Center opened at the Headquarters Building in Downtown Brooklyn.

In 1973, the additional \$5 million needed to complete construction of the permanent headquarters for the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults was granted to IHB.

Currently on register are some 9000 blind persons, about half of whom are being actively served by one or more IHB programs.

Keane Award Presented to John F. Brady

The New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind presented IHB Executive Director, John F. Brady, with the George E. Keane Award on October 11. Mr. Brady was recognized with an expression of sincere gratitude for "Twenty Years of Distinguished Service to the Rehabilitation of Blind Persons."

Through IHB, 200 Children Attend Summer Camps

"Summertime. . .and the livin' was easy" - at least as far as the blind children in Nassau and Suffolk Counties were concerned. The IHB Nassau-Suffolk Day Camp this year was conducted on the grounds of the State University at Farmingdale. Approximately 75 blind children, including a Rubella unit, attended the session from July 9 to August 17. They were supervised by a staff of about thirty, including a corps of youthful and energetic volunteers.

The change in location this year afforded IHB the opportunity to take advantage of the college's recreational facilities, which include a bowling alley, basketball courts, an indoor swimming pool, and a log cabin. The children ranged in age from five to sixteen. In addition to the IHB-sponsored day camp, the agency provides scholarships and/or aids in placing children in integrated camps with sighted children, and in sleep-away camps, bringing the total number of children IHB sends to camp close to two-hundred.

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In the Brooklyn-Queens area, IHB tapped community resources to place blind and visually-handicapped children of school age in integrated day camps with sighted children. For the first time, IHB cooperated with such community programs as the Salvation Army Bedford Boys Club Day Camp, the Catholic Charities Office of the Handicapped Summer Program, and the YMCA and YMHA. The Salvation Army Camp, which operated from July 9 to August 17, was a 5-day-a-week program from 9 AM to 4 PM with children ranging in age from seven to twelve. IHB provided both scholarships and transportation to the blind youngsters in attendance.

The Catholic Charities Summer Camp program, also known as "Operation F.U.N." (Fulfilling Unmet Needs) was a 3-day-a-week program conducted at the Bishop Ford Roman Catholic High School in Prospect Park.

In addition to the above programs, the Brooklyn-Prospect Park YMCA and the Far Rockaway YMHA conducted summer camp programs.

Similar ongoing recreation programs have continued during the school year to compensate for the lack of after-school programs for children in deprived areas.

IHB's Low Vision Service Observes 20th Anniversary With One-Day Symposium

1973 marks the twentieth anniversary of Low Vision Rehabilitation Service at IHB. To commemorate this milestone, IHB sponsored a full-day symposium, VISION REVOLUTION, on October 17, at St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens. Partially sighted blind persons who have had long experience with Low Vision Services as well as professionals in the field of eye care were participants in each group discussion. Keynote speakers were Dr. George O. Hellinger, Director of the IHB Optometric Service; Dr. David Karan, Director, Low Vision Clinic, Long Island Jewish Hospital; and Dr. James F. Garrett, Assistant Administrator, Research and Demonstration, US Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

5000 People Served

In March 1953, The IHB established the first low vision rehabilitation service in the world. For legally blind people with some usable residual vision the benefits derived from this service-including increased ability to read and perform simple tasks-have been immeasurable. IHB's Low Vision Clinic has served close to 5000 people since its inception and has been used a model for similar clinics by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of HEW. Major emphasis in the clinic is placed on the patient and his motivation and reaction rather than the optical aids themselves.

IHB mourns the recent loss of two of its beloved trustees. David J. Askin of Jamaica Estates, a retired banker and trucking executive, was former secretary of IHB. Following retirement as president of Askin Trucking Company, he became a vice-president of the Equitable Federal Savings and Loan Association. In addition, he had served as President of the Brooklyn Rotary Club and President of the Bishop Molloy Retreat League.

Milton T. Vander Veer, IHB Vice-President and retired chairman of Kings Lafayette Bank, Brooklyn, died on May 6. Mr. Vander Veer was named "First Citizen of Brooklyn" in 1963 by Abe Stark, Borough President at that time. He was also a general partner in Vander Veer Associates, a real estate brokerage and consultant firm in Brooklyn.

\$5 Million Federal Grant to National Center

The additional five million dollars needed to complete construction of the permanent headquarters for the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults was granted to Honorable John H. Finn, President of The IHB on September 20. The announcement was made by James S. Dwight, Jr., Administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Services of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, at a meeting in Washington.

The facility will be the world's first rehabilitation and research center for deaf-blind persons. It has been designed to accommodate as many as one hundred trainees, 18 and over, per year, recruited from all parts of the United States. The Center will be built on a 25-acre tract of land at Sands Point, Long Island - the site of a former US Navy installation. Director of the Center will be Dr. Peter J. Salmon and Associate Director, Harry J. Spar.



Judge John H. Finn shakes hands with Mr. James S. Dwight, Jr., Administrator, SRS, while Dr. Peter J. Salmon looks on following announcement of the release of \$5 million for construction of permanent facilities for the National Center.

The Center will provide vocational evaluation and training, physical and social rehabilitation and residential accommodations. Clients are eligible for service if they are "legally blind" and cannot hear speech despite optimum amplification and benefit of hearing aid(s).

League Lines

"Gigi", the new musical by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, was chosen as this year's Theatre Benefit for the Manhattan IHB League. The November 14 benefit was under the chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. O. Roy Chalk. . . A cocktail party to benefit the Garden City IHB League was held in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Gennaro Scibelli on October 6. . . The annual Fingertip Luncheon of the Baldwin-Freeport IHB League was served up on November 12 at the IHB Nassau Service Center in Baldwin. League members prepared and/or donated the various dishes which were sold for the benefit of IHB. . . The Oceanside-Rockville Centre IHB League's annual Rummage Sale was held at the Nassau Day Center on October 27th and 28th. . . On December 21, a \$200 basket of "cheer" was awarded at a drawing under the auspices of IHB's South Shore League. . . The North Hempstead Country Club in Manhasset accommodated the Manhasset-Burrwood IHB League on October 25 for its Annual Harvest Luncheon and Bridge.

ANNUAL REPORT 1973

A community, by its very nature, depends upon a variety of resources for its services. One of these resources is the community voluntary agency. SERVICE should perhaps be the major consideration of any community agency. To engender confidence in the community so that it looks to and respects that agency for SERVICE has always been a goal of The IHB.

The emphasis in this year's Annual Report to the public is "Community Care." In 1973, IHB reached out to the community through its many service programs, training programs for college students and others, volunteer recruitment and placement, league functions and "integrated" programs for both blind and sighted people.

An awareness of the community and its needs has prompted IHB to inaugurate and continue some highly successful service programs. In addition to its ongoing programs such as Low Vision Rehabilitation Service, Services for Blind Children, Home Management, and Day Centers for the Elderly Blind, IHB continues to strengthen its ties with the community-at-large through affiliations with both Long Island College Hospital and Long Island Jewish Hospital and through such innovative programs as the "In-Service Training Program for Professional and Para-Professional Staffs in Nursing Homes" and "self-help groups" at IHB Day Centers and other centers.

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The role of the voluntary agency as a training resource for the community can never be underestimated. The student/teacher training program, a cooperative venture of The IHB and Hunter College and Teachers College of Columbia University offered training programs at the IHB Children's Center as did the cooperative program with student nurses from Staten Island Community College in conjunction with their pediatric nursing courses.

The IHB Rehabilitation Center in New Hyde Park received an increased number of referrals from agencies serving the blind throughout the country for training instructors in Physical Orientation and Mobility.

"Partnership with Parents" were the words IHB Coordinator of Pre-School Services used to describe the enhanced relationship between parents and IHB professionals during the past year. With increased accessibility and the localization of all children's services in the Willoughby Street, downtown Brooklyn facility, the Pre-School program was able to offer improved services to both parents and children.



A "Training Services Grant" from HEW enables the IHB Rehabilitation Center to instruct as many as 20 switchboard operators over a 12-month period. The program is a cooperative venture with RCS and New York Telephone.



By July 1973, the pilot Home Management Center in Brooklyn had given 364 lessons on a part-time basis and when the Center is open full time, twice as many lessons will be given for the same period.

A parent's discussion group during the nursery school day was planned in conjunction with group workers from the Adelphi University School of Social Work. The meetings brought new confidence to the mothers and thus strengthened their relationship with all staff.

Earlier intervention on the education level was also planned. It was hoped that younger children and their mothers could be served in an individual teaching session, one day a week at the center. As a result of both the centralization of Pre-School Services and the improved clarity of focus of their program, IHB's relationship with other community agencies has been strengthened and expanded.

For school children throughout our service area, the IHB Braille Library continued to meet the needs for braille volumes and the increasing demand for very specialized textbooks in large print. Last year, 80,000 volumes were distributed.

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The auxiliary league is frequently "behind-the-scenes" supporting Children's Services and other IHB programs. By definition, the IHB League is "a group of community residents interested in civic affairs (and) . . . has for its purposes the development of ways and means of assisting in the maintenance and improvement of services available to blind persons within the League's community." In 1972-73, the IHB Leagues continued to pursue and exemplify these goals.

It has been the philosophy of IHB that as each league develops it would spread an awareness of IHB through the community.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1973

Support from the public — contributions, including legacies of \$443,946		\$2,040,435
Fees and grants from governmental agencies:		
Grants	\$1,511,113	
Training fees and allowances	460,465	1,971,578
Other revenue:		
Maintenance fees — residences	425,844	
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	1,452	
Rental income	49,800	
Income from investments	68,676	
Income from endowment funds	26,476	
Net gain on investment transactions	58,563	
Miscellaneous revenue	20,295	651,106
Total support and revenue		4,663,119
Deduct support and grants limited by donors:		
Currently expendable, but only as specified by donor	1,511,113	
Endowments — not expendable	52,144	
Expendable for construction	51,909	1,615,166
Support and revenue available to finance current general activities		3,047,953
Expenditures:		
Program services:		
I.H.B. Industries:		
Sheltered workshops:		
Manufacturing and selling costs, and client supplements and subsidies	2,676,800	
Less net sales	2,538,164	
	138,636	
Deduct depreciation provision	8,740	
Loss from manufacturing operations	129,896	
Work Activities Center — loss from manufacturing and training operations	66,805	
Social services for adults	264,548	
Medical services	77,727	
Rehabilitation services	695,576	
Residences	541,654	
Day centers and recreation services	210,256	
Services for blind children	342,064	
National Center and I.H.B. services for deaf-blind	507,924	
Research	9,462	
Carried forward	\$2,845,912	\$3,047,953
Community services:		
Public education, prevention of blindness and case finding	\$170,780	
Community relations and volunteer services	138,095	308,875
Total program services		3,154,787
Supporting services:		
I.H.B. building	\$200,329	
Management and general	624,023	
Fund raising	327,321	1,151,673
Equipment acquisitions and preconstruction expenditures	299,320	
Total expenditures	\$4,605,780	
Deduct expenditures financed by special funds:		
Current restricted funds	(843,054)	
Property, plant and equipment funds	(168,197)	
Expenditures financed by current general revenue		\$3,594,529
Excess of current general fund expenditures over related revenue — decrease in current general fund balance		\$ 546,576

The books of The Industrial Home for the Blind are audited by certified public accountants. A copy of their report will be made available upon request.

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John F. Brady, Executive Director

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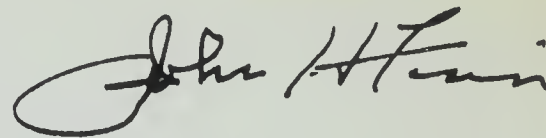
President's Message

This year's message to you is a report on the beginning of The IHB's 80th year of service to blind and deaf-blind persons. It is a year which saw renewed vigorous effort to meet the demands of a growing client population in need of services.

Eighty years ago The IHB opened its doors for the first time to only six blind men and provided them, according to its charter, with residence, recreation and work opportunity. Since that time the agency's register has swelled to more than 9,000 blind and deaf-blind men, women and children in 1973. It has pioneered in introducing a more than substantial number of the major components now considered by other agencies in the field to be part and parcel of a comprehensive system of service.

The sheer force of the growth of the blind population over the years has catapulted The IHB on a course of expansion that has severely strained its ability to meet the needs of these handicapped persons.

Nevertheless, now as then, The IHB continues to be responsive to the requirements of the individuals it serves by promptly offering essential services and programs. The years stand, not only as a distinguished record of the accomplishments of The IHB but as a tribute to the dedication of those men and women who have served on its board and staff and the countless numbers of men and women who have contributed to its support.



IHB Client Register Tops 9000; Includes Over 1000 Children

9189 blind adults and children were registered as IHB clients during the past fiscal year. Of the 8309 registered when the year ended, 3461 were Kings County residents, 1724 lived in Queens, 1752 in Nassau and 1345 in Suffolk.

Blind children on the registry as of June 30 totaled 1036 of whom 611 were between 6 and 17 years of age. By county, the register of blind children was Kings, 370; Queens, 111; Nassau, 292; and Suffolk, 263. Twenty-one children were enrolled in the IHB Nursery School and 17 in the Board of Education Rubella Program conducted at the IHB Brooklyn Center. Through IHB, 182 blind children were placed in day and sleep-away camps, IHB's own camps accommodating 77.

Training and/or employment services were provided to 881 blind men and women during the year, the IHB Rehabilitation Center accommodating 182. There were 150 employed in IHB Industries workshops. Their wages totaled \$347,000.

In addition to the 65 clients who were employed in professional and other non-industrial positions, 46 were employed in regular industry under IHB supervision and 31 were employed in independently owned stands and small businesses under our supervision. Foot travel training was given to 260 blind adults and 274 received rehabilitation teaching services. 2560 lessons including braille and homemaking were given during the year. IHB residences accommodated 85.

Day Center enrollment came to 676 during the year. Totals for each center were Kings, 200; Queens, 127; Nassau, 111; South Suffolk, 103; North Suffolk, 135. A total of 966 patients were seen in the Low Vision Clinic. Of the 367 patients who received initial optometric evaluation, approximately 81% were able to receive substantial and useful improvement in vision through the use of optical aids.

Social Security Publications Available in Braille from AFB

The American Foundation for the Blind has announced that the following publications of the Social Security Administration are now available in braille: "Estimating your Social Security Retirement Check," "Disability Benefits for Blind People," "Your Medicare Handbook," "Your Social Security" and "If You Become Disabled." AFB's "Washington Report" is now also available in braille.

VIPs

Volunteers In Practice

Volunteers are a veritable fount of human resources. In the last fiscal year, two new programs have been inaugurated at IHB with the cooperation of the community-at-large. One of these programs has enlisted Volunteer Social Service Assistants. These volunteers, who call at the homes of blind persons, reinforce and expand the relationships already developed between the client and The IHB social worker. They often provide direct services such as shopping assistance, medical and banking assistance, case review and tutoring. In addition, they attend training sessions conducted by IHB social workers and the Volunteer Services Coordinator.

The second program is nationwide in scope, RSVP—the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, partially supported by ACTION, which provides Senior Citizens the satisfaction derived from spreading a little happiness and making friends of one's own age while employing one's special talents to the fullest. IHB, with the cooperation of RSVP, has placed Day Center members as volunteers along with sighted senior citizens in local hospitals and sighted volunteers as readers to blind professionals. RSVP has provided senior citizen volunteers to cut patterns for toys made at the Burrwood Residence for Aged Blind and Deaf-Blind People in Cold Spring Harbor. In addition, IHB has reciprocated by having Day Center members and residents of Burrwood complete mailings for RSVP.

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Victoria Switky, candidate for a Master's Degree in Dance Therapy at New York University, has limbered the muscles of both pre-schoolers and aged people at IHB Headquarters in Brooklyn. The freedom of movement acquired through dance therapy, according to Victoria, "helps to improve balance, muscle tone, poise and a feeling of independence." For the blind person who has difficulty expressing his feelings verbally, dance therapy enables him to express himself through a non-verbal method of communication—"Body Language."

NEWS IN BRIEF

IHB has benefited substantially because of the late Mary E. Switzer's work in rehabilitation and interest in this agency. With this in mind, IHB Administrative Vice-President, Peter J. Salmon has been enlisting the support of other agencies for the blind in helping to establish a living memorial in her name through a fund of \$250,000. The fund is to be administered by the National Rehabilitation Association and will provide expenses and honoraria for ten to fifteen Switzer fellows who will be commissioned to study some of the critical issues affecting rehabilitation and its future.

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Nearly twenty mothers of pre-schoolers in the IHB Nursery School and Board of Education Rubella Program have formed a new IHB league, "Volunteers for IHB Children." The Brooklyn mothers, who until this fall were a "self-help group" for dealing with feelings of isolation and special problems mothers of handicapped children encounter, conduct weekly meetings at IHB Headquarters. Their first fund-raising event was an Art Auction, held at Brooklyn Elks Lodge No. 22 on November 26. A dinner dance at Brooklyn's "Chateau Gourmet" is being planned for May 16.

The present slate of officers includes President, Ellen Alboher; Vice-President, Phyllis Roth; Treasurer, Rose Mauro; and Recording Secretary, Betty Burr.